The MFB Vocational Selection Test (VST)

CANDIDATE INFORMATION AND PRACTICE QUESTIONS BOOKLET

Australian Council for Educational Research
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CONTACT

If you have any queries about the registration process, you may contact the VST Office. The Office will not answer queries relating to the content of the test, or MFB processes or procedures.

FOR ENQUIRIES ABOUT THE WRITTEN TEST

VST Office at ACER:
Email: mfb@acer.edu.au
Web: https://mfb.acer.edu.au
Phone: (03) 9277 5797
Postal address: Private Bag 55, Camberwell VIC 3124

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE MFB APPLICANT PROCESS

MFB Human Resources:
Email: mfbrecruit@mfb.vic.gov.au
Phone: (03) 9662 2311
Postal address: 456 Albert Street, East Melbourne VIC 3002
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WHAT IS THE VST?

1.1 ABOUT THE VOCATIONAL SELECTION TEST – VST

The MFB use the Vocational Selection Test (VST) for the cognitive component of their selection process. It is used to provide comparative information on candidates’ abilities across a number of generic skills.

There are four components to the VST.

A. Verbal Reasoning: which measures a candidate’s ability to grasp and use relationships among concepts. It does this by measuring how well you understand and interpret written passages.

B. Quantitative Reasoning: which assesses mathematical skills and numerical aptitude with questions using maths in an everyday context.

C. Abstract Reasoning: which examines a candidate’s ability to understand and apply concepts expressed in non-verbal diagrams, such as sequences and patterns.

D. Mechanical Reasoning: which measures a candidate’s ability to understand the basic functioning of mechanical devices and systems, and apply this understanding to predict effects of changes and to solve problems.

All candidates planning to sit the VST will be required to register and attend an Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) test centre.

To be selected for progression to the next stage of the MFB selection process, candidates must obtain a score of at least 45 (on a scale of 1–100) on each of the four components of the test. (For more information on scoring see the Results section pg 15)

1.2 TEST STRUCTURE

The VST is a pen and paper test in a multiple-choice format. There are 115 questions in total and the time allowed is 2 hours and 40 minutes.

For more information on the test content see the Preparing for the VST section page 13.

Candidates need to therefore allow at least three and a half hours for the entire testing session. This is made up of two hours and forty minutes of testing time, and a half hour before and some time after the test to complete testing procedures.

1.3 ROLE OF ACER

The Vocational Selection Test (VST) is developed by ACER – an independent, not-for-profit, national research and development organisation – on behalf of The Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB). ACER is responsible for the administration of the VST on behalf of the MFB. The MFB manage all other recruitment stages.
1.4 EQUITY & FAIRNESS

The VST is developed to rigorous professional and technical standards. Test questions are designed and developed by a team of ACER writers who are experts in their subject areas. All test questions must pass detailed quality assurance processes, trial testing, psychometric analysis and final review. The content, style, duration and sequencing of the tests are determined to ensure that the testing program is relevant, fair, valid and reliable.

The VST data is analysed to check that each question has performed as required. Test questions in development are carefully scrutinised in an ongoing attempt to minimise gender, ethnic or religious bias, and to ensure that the test is culturally neutral.

The test may contain a small number of trial questions which will not be scored.

1.5 PRIVACY, PERSONAL INFORMATION & SENSITIVE DATA

By completing the VST registration form you agree to be bound by the ACER privacy policy and you consent to:

A. ACER collecting your personal information including any sensitive (such as health) information. The personal information ACER may collect about you includes your registration information, your payment details, your test answers and results, any application for special testing conditions and any communications you have with the VST Office;

B. ACER using and disclosing the personal information we collect about you for purposes connected with your VST registration and testing, which may include investigating any suspected misconduct and administering any penalty for misconduct. You understand that if you do not provide us with all the information requested, we may not be able to process your VST registration or test or respond to your communications;

C. your personal (including sensitive) information being disclosed by ACER to the MFB and other persons or bodies connected with VST for purposes related to VST (which may include transferring it overseas); and

D. ACER using your personal information for research purposes and disclosing it to relevant research bodies (in a de-identified form). Candidate names will be separated from data in all cases.

All information collected will be treated with utmost confidentiality and we will take all reasonable steps to ensure its security. Any use of your registration and test records will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. We will strictly adhere to our obligations under the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth) and any other applicable data protection legislation.

For more information about our privacy policy and how to access or correct your information, please see www.acer.edu.au/privacy
2 VST REGISTRATION

2.1 TEST DATES & SESSIONS
The next MFB Vocational Selection Test (VST) will be held on:
**Saturday 12th March 2016**

**Please Note:**
MFB is inviting a further 700 new employment applications from members of the community (350 men and 350 women) to complement those candidates currently in the selection process for consideration for employment as a Recruit Firefighter with the MFB. The MFB encourages people from indigenous and culturally linguistic backgrounds to apply. Those candidates who successfully progress through the selection process will become eligible for appointment to a limited number of positions on Recruit Courses which are anticipated to commence in July 2016 and February 2017.

Seats in each session will be allocated on a first in, first served basis. ACER and the MFB do not guarantee that applicants will be able to access a seat in any given session.

Sessions will be available in both the morning and the afternoon.

2.2 TEST CENTRES
This MFB VST will be delivered in metropolitan Melbourne.

Check the website [https://mfb.acer.edu.au](https://mfb.acer.edu.au) for the most up to date information on test dates and venues.

When completing the registration form, select the centre, day and session which is most convenient for you. You should plan your travel carefully so that you arrive at the test centre no later than half an hour before your session is due to start.
2.3 REGISTRATION, FEE PAYMENT AND DATES

The fee to sit the MFB VST is $150 (GST incl) which includes this Candidate Information Booklet and the included set of practice materials. When you register online you may pay by credit card (Mastercard, AMEX, Diners or Visa, including Visa and Mastercard debit cards). The online payment option operates through an e-commerce facility on the ACER website. Credit card details are not recorded or stored by ACER but are encrypted at point of capture and transmitted direct to the bank, without entering ACER information systems. Thus you can be assured this is a safe payment option.

Your standard online registration and test payment of $150.00 must be paid and received by ACER by 5:00 pm on Wednesday, 2nd March 2016. If there is a delay in payment you may not be permitted to sit the examination.

2.4 REGISTRATION

Registration is available online only at: https://mfb.acer.edu.au

To complete your online application you will need the following:

Credit Card
You will need a valid credit or debit card to pay the registration fee of $150.00 (see 3.3 for more details). Persons without a valid credit or debit card may wish to seek the support of a relative or friend to use their credit card for payment.

Access to a computer with internet access
Persons without a computer and/or internet access can apply using computers available at municipal libraries or cafés with internet access.

Email address
This email address will be used for all correspondence and communication from the VST Office at ACER, including information on how to access your test tickets and VST results. Please ensure that the email you give in the online application form is correct.

Please Note: You are advised to add mfb@acer.edu.au to your address book prior to registering. This helps to guarantee that your emails from ACER do not end up in your Junk email box.

Driver’s Licence
You will be required to hold a current driver’s licence to apply. The driver’s licence number is required on the application.

Photo
When completing your online registration you must upload a current photograph. This photo will appear on your Admission Ticket. Photos may be uploaded at the time of registering. The Admission Ticket must be printed clearly and taken with you to the test centre, it will be collected by a supervisor as testing is completed and returned to ACER.

IMPORTANT: If you arrive at a test centre without a printed Admission Ticket, you will be refused entry and will not be permitted to sit the test. There will be no exceptions.

When you receive your Admission Ticket please check it carefully and email ACER immediately if there are any errors.

ACER and the MFB reserve the right to refuse or cancel a registration under certain circumstances.
2.5 APPLYING FOR SPECIAL TESTING CONDITIONS

If you have a visual, hearing, physical or other impairment which might interfere with your ability to sit the test in the standard manner, you should apply for special testing conditions by email to the VST office as soon as possible after registration. All such requests must be submitted no later than fourteen (14) days before the test sitting date and must be accompanied by an explanatory letter from a registered health practitioner. This letter must be no more than one year old for a medical condition and no more than three years old for a learning disability. The letter from your practitioner must give clear information on your condition as it affects your ability to sit the MFB Selection Test (VST).

Applicants with dyslexia should submit a copy of an appropriate educational psychologist’s report (no more than 3 years old) for consideration. If your report is more than 3 years old, it will still be accepted, as long as it is accompanied by a recent letter from a psychologist stating that the information in the report is still applicable to you as you are today. All reasonable efforts will be made to provide appropriate testing conditions for your needs.

Applications for Special Testing Conditions must be provided by email to the VST Office: mfb@acer.edu.au

**PLEASE NOTE:**

There is no possibility of special consideration being given to test results. Under no circumstances will scores be adjusted to account for any perceived disadvantage. Alternative testing arrangements will be provided for approved candidates. No other special consideration is available.

2.6 REFUND TERMS

You may be entitled to a refund of your registration fee under the Australian Consumer Law in certain limited circumstances. Up until ten (10) days prior to your scheduled sitting of the MFB VST Examination you may request a refund beyond those limited circumstances. After that date you may only request a refund in the limited circumstances allowed by the Australian Consumer Law, more specifically, where there has been a serious failure in the goods or services provided under these terms and conditions.

Refund terms

1. where the limited circumstances of the Australian Consumer Law allowing a refund do not apply to your request for a refund, you will be charged a $40 administrative charge;

2. should you register for, but not sit, the MFB VST Examination, without prior notification and where the limited circumstances where a refund is allowed under the Australian Consumer Law do not apply, your registration fee will not be refunded; and you should be aware that your registration may count as one of the three (3) VST attempts – after three attempts at the VST, candidates are no longer eligible to sit the test;

3. ACER reserves the right to absolutely refuse or cancel a registration in circumstances where your registration is not bona fide or is not received ten days prior to your sitting of the MFB VST Examination; and

4. All requests for a refund must be made in writing by email to: mfb@acer.edu.au.
2.7 COMMUNICATING WITH THE MFB VST OFFICE

If you have any queries about the registration process, you may contact the ACER VST Office. The Office will not answer queries relating to the content of the test, or MFB processes or procedures.

For enquiries about the VST test
VST Office at ACER:
Email: mfb@acer.edu.au
Web: https://mfb.acer.edu.au
Phone: (03) 9277 5797
Postal address: Private Bag 55, Camberwell VIC 3124

For information about the MFB recruitment process
MFB Human Resources:
Email: mfbrecruit@mfb.vic.gov.au
Phone: (03) 9662 2311
Postal address: 456 Albert Street, East Melbourne VIC 3002

Email is the principal means of communication concerning VST registration, candidate identification forms and results. Candidates must provide a current, valid email address which will be maintained during the registration, test and reporting cycle. Sometimes personal emails don’t make it through our spam filters, so if we don’t respond within a week, please resend the or call the VST Office at ACER.

PLEASE NOTE:
Candidates who provide an email address that is hosted by Hotmail.com or Yahoo.com are advised that some procedures implemented by these providers may result in some email messages not being accepted, or being flagged as spam. You are advised to use a different email service provider for the purposes of VST registration, or to put mfb@acer.edu.au in your address book to ensure emails from the VST Office are not regarded as junk email.
3 TEST CENTRE PROCEDURES & REGULATIONS

3.1 ADMISSION TICKET
You will be emailed an Admission Ticket seven (7) days prior to your allocated test session.
Your Admission Ticket will be accessed through the Candidate Login page located at:
https://mfb.acer.edu.au
To access your ticket you will need the details previously provided to you by email.
Application ID number: XXXXXX
Surname: XXXXXXXXX
When completing your online registration you must upload a current photograph. This photo may be uploaded at the time of registering.
The Admission Ticket must be printed clearly and taken with you to the test centre, it will be collected by a supervisor as testing is completed and returned to ACER.
IMPORTANT: If you arrive at a test centre without a printed Admission Ticket, you will be refused entry and will not be permitted to sit the test. There will be no exceptions.
When you receive your Admission Ticket please check it carefully and email ACER immediately if there are any errors.

3.2 REPORTING TO THE TEST CENTRE
At the time of registering you will be allocated a seat in your chosen session. You must report to the test centre at the time listed on your Admission Ticket to complete pre-testing procedures. Exams will begin approximately 30 minutes after registration.
If you report to the centre after all candidates have been seated in the testing room you may not be admitted. No latecomers can be admitted once the test has started.
When you report to the test centre you must bring:
• Admission Ticket – with photo included
• Suitable and current photo identification (see below)
• Writing equipment (medium soft no. 2 or HB pencils and a good quality eraser for the OMR answer sheets).
3.3 IDENTIFICATION ON THE TEST DAY
Acceptable identification is as follows:
• Drivers licence. (Interstate/international drivers licences are accepted.)

All candidates will be required to show their identification to supervisors on attendance at the test centre.
If for any reason a candidate cannot provide their photo identification on the test day (e.g. because of a lost wallet) they must provide a signed statutory declaration confirming their identity.
They must also provide by email or mail a certified copy of their driver licence to the ACER MFB office no later than five (5) days after their allocated test sitting. Failure to do so may result in results being withheld.

3.4 PERMITTED ITEMS
No dictionaries, calculators or electronic equipment of any kind are permitted during the test.

Please Note: Mobile phones, pagers, calculators, stopwatches, smart watches, audio or recording devices of any kind (including MP3 players), note paper, food and bags will not be permitted in the test room. Pencil cases, highlighters and rulers are not permitted.

You may bring a bottle of drinking water into the test centre with you.

3.5 TIMING OF THE TEST
At least three and a half hours is needed to sit the MFB VST. This is made up of two hours and forty minutes of testing time, and a half hour before and some time after the test to complete testing procedures.
The VST is a pen and paper test in a multiple-choice format. There are 115 questions in total and the time allowed is 2 hours and 40 minutes.

3.6 LEAVING EARLY
The MFB VST is a high stakes test administered under secure conditions. Candidates may not leave the test centre before the full testing time has elapsed, except in the case of illness. In this instance, candidates are expected to provide a medical certificate explaining their need to leave the test centre within seven (7) days of the test administration; failure to do so may result in results being withheld.

Once a candidate has departed the test centre it is not possible to re-enter and continue the test.

3.7 ANSWER SHEETS
The MFB Selection Test (VST) answer sheets are optically scanned and scored by machine. It is very important that you record your answers carefully. Record your answers by completely filling in the oval with pencil. If you decide to change an answer, erase your mark completely and mark the oval corresponding to your new choice.

Mark your answers directly onto the VST answer sheet and not in the test book.
Any rough work may be done in the margins of your test book. Scrap paper is not allowed. Do not write on your Admission Ticket.
3.7 MISCONDUCT & PENALTIES

Misconduct includes:

- Breach of any of the security arrangements for the MFB Vocational Selection Test (VST);
- impersonation;
- attempting to remove a test book or answer sheet or part thereof, or any notes, from the testing room;
- failure to follow test supervisors’ instructions at all times;
- giving or receiving assistance during the test;
- creating a disturbance;
- using prohibited aids (e.g. notes, note paper; calculator; mobile phone; audio/recording device etc.);
- writing or marking your test paper or answer sheet during reading time or after the instruction is given to stop writing;
- copying another candidate’s work;
- using the test questions, their content or information about them for purposes other than your sitting of the VST. This includes: publishing the VST questions or any of their content or information about them on the internet, any digital format or otherwise; and/or passing the VST questions, any of their content or information about them to third parties;
- the giving of false or misleading information;
- infringement of copyright. This includes: performing those acts which only the copyright holders may or authorising or allowing a person on the candidate’s behalf to infringe ACER’s copyright material.

Penalties for misconduct include: withholding of your MFB Vocational Selection Test (VST) results or disqualification from sitting the VST for a period or at all.

You are put on notice that there is no appeal from any penalty applied.

3.8 SECURITY

The MFB Vocational Selection Test (VST) is a high stakes test. Therefore ACER, in conjunction with the MFB, has established security procedures which have been outlined in this booklet and will be strictly enforced at all times.

3.9 INFRINGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT

The VST is copyright material owned by ACER. Any infringement of the VST copyright material, in addition to any right at law, will be treated as misconduct for the purposes of the agreement you sign at the time of registration.
4 PREPARING FOR THE VST

4.1 PREPARATION

It is recommended that candidates take steps to ensure they are adequately prepared for the MFB Vocational Selection Test (VST).

To achieve the best possible results, a number of strategies can be used to prepare for this examination. These can include:

- Becoming familiar with the content of the test
- Working through the included practice materials
- Purchasing further practice and preparation materials
- Being aware of the best test taking strategy.

There are several books on the market that provide general advice on tests and test taking. If you have not taken a test before, or if it is some time since you last took a test, you may find some of the information contained in books of this kind helpful in preparing for the VST.

Note: The sample questions included in this booklet are examples of the types of items in the assessments but do not necessarily match the full range of questions or their difficulty. They are designed to provide guidance and practice about what to expect and to help you to prepare for the test. However, success in the practice questions does not guarantee or imply success in the actual assessment.

4.2 THE CONTENT OF THE TEST

You should be aware of the structure and content of each of the four components of the VST.

VERBAL REASONING

Verbal reasoning is the ability to understand and reason using concepts framed in words. It aims at testing your ability to think logically, understand relationships, solve problems and think critically, rather than simply understanding vocabulary.

QUANTITATIVE REASONING

Quantitative reasoning measures your ability to understand, analyse, interpret and draw logical conclusions based on numerical and mathematical data and situations.

ABSTRACT REASONING

The abstract reasoning assessment is used to measure the ability to think clearly to solve problems and quickly identify patterns and logical rules based on abstract visual patterns rather than numbers and words. It involves recognising the rule or rules that govern the progression of a pattern from one diagram to another in a series, or to identify the part which is missing from a diagram.

MECHANICAL REASONING

Mechanical Reasoning measures your ability to understand the basic functioning of mechanical devices and systems, and apply this understanding to predict effects of changes and to solve problems.
4.3 INCLUDED PRACTICE MATERIALS
Sample questions are provided in this booklet (See Section 7) by ACER and these can assist you to improve your skills and become more familiar with the content of the test.
It is recommended you attempt these questions to identify areas needing development then continue practising to improve your results. You may choose to complete the sample questions several times to become familiar with the types of questions you will encounter in the exam. It is also a good idea to time yourself so you become familiar with time constraints.

4.4 ACER VST PRACTICE MATERIALS
ACER produces the only official MFB Vocational Selection Test (VST) preparation materials. To purchase ACER Practice materials please go to: https://mfb.acer.edu.au
ACER does not endorse any other preparation courses, course providers or preparation materials.

4.5 TEST TAKING STRATEGY
Questions are in multiple choice format. You will be required to read through a passage of information related to each group of questions (called a unit). Then for each question, select the answer you think is correct from a selection of four or five possible answers that are provided. Only one answer is correct.
Some hints for undertaking the test include:
• It is recommended that you work steadily through the test.
• Read the stimulus material for a unit several times before starting the questions.
• If you find a question too difficult, leave it and return to it later if you have time.
• Try not to spend too much time on any one question.
• Read through all the alternative answers to a question, even if you think the first one is correct, before marking your chosen response.
• See if there are any options you can discard immediately because they are obviously wrong.
• If you think you know the answer to a question, mark it, even if you are not certain. Go on to the next question and come back later if you have time. This will prevent you from getting your answers out of sequence with the actual questions, and will give you a better chance of improving your score if you run out of time.

Please note the following:
• All questions have the same value.
• No marks are deducted for incorrect answers. Therefore, by attempting as many questions as possible you stand the best chance of maximising your score.
• Notes, calculations and working can be done on the paper provided.
• No calculators are allowed.
Note that no credit is given if more than one answer is marked.
Mark your answers directly onto the VST answer sheet and not in the test book. Answers marked in the test book will not be scored.
Rough work may be done in the margins of your test book. Scrap paper is not allowed.
5 RESULTS

5.1 MFB VOCATIONAL SELECTION TEST (VST) SCORES

The MFB will advise candidates via email if they have been successful in progressing to the next stage of the selection process. Candidates can then access their results from the Candidate Login Page: https://mfb.acer.edu.au

Results are generally posted within four weeks after the test date. To be selected to progress to the next stage of the MFB selection process, candidates must obtain a score of at least 45 (on a scale of 1-100) on each of the four components of the tests.

You will receive a score for each of the four test components, together with an Overall VST Score. Each of the four VST scores is expressed on a scale of 0 to 100. These are not percentage marks.

5.2 CURRENCY OF RESULTS

MFB Policy states:

Vocational Selection Test

• Unsuccessful applicants are required to wait for a period of no less than 12 months, prior to resubmitting an application online to attend the Vocational Selection Test.

• A pass at this stage enables an applicant to progress to the next stage in the application process.

For information on the steps in the Recruit Firefighter selection process please see the MFB website:

5.3 APPEALS

The VST Office will not enter into appeals against VST results or any penalties applied for misconduct under the registration agreement. Requests for re-marking will not be considered. Should you wish to query a particular question on the day of the test, you should alert the supervisor to your concern and submit a written note before you leave the test centre. Your query will be reviewed by the VST Office and you will be notified of the outcome.

Similarly, any complaints relating to the test venue or physical discomfort suffered should be reported to the supervisor on the day, or in writing to the VST Office within seven days of the test administration days.

It is not possible to give special consideration for impaired performance on the day of the test caused by illness or other unexpected personal situations.
These questions are designed to assist candidates in preparing for the Vocational Selection Test (VST). Use the sample questions in this booklet to practise your exam technique. This is not a complete test; however, there are 45 questions for you to work through.

Like the actual test, this booklet has three parts.

**Part I** tests quantitative and verbal reasoning skills. It contains 23 questions (actual test 55 items).

**Part II** tests abstract reasoning skills. It contains 12 questions (actual test 30 items).

**Part III** tests mechanical reasoning skills and contains 10 practice questions (actual test 30 items).

All questions have four or five alternative answers provided (A, B, C, D, E). The correct answers to the questions are provided at the end of the booklet.

The answer sheet provided can be used to practise recording your answers. Try to attempt all questions before checking your answers. Remember that in the real test, 45 questions should take about 55 minutes to complete (actual test has 115 that need to be answered in 160 minutes).

Note that these are just examples of some types of questions that might appear on a test. The real test may vary in difficulty and range of question types.
The test and marking your answers

The VST is a multiple-choice test that takes 2 hours and 10 minutes to complete. There are approximately 80 questions on the actual test. When you begin the test you will be required to read through the passage of information related to each group of questions (called a unit). Then for each question, select the answer you think is correct from a selection of four or five possible answers that are provided. Only one answer is correct. You will record your answer on the VST Answer Sheet that will be provided with the test. On the Answer Sheet you will find a list of question numbers and alongside each question, ovals with the letters A, B, C, D and E. Use a 2B, HB or B black-lead pencil to clearly fill in the oval that corresponds to the answer you have selected.

Example (Answer ‘B’ selected)

An example of a test Answer Sheet is provided on page 19 of this booklet.

To be sure that your name and scores are accurately reported, it is very important that you mark the answer ovals in the proper way. If you decide to change an answer, erase your mark completely and fill in the oval containing your new answer. Also check to see that you are selecting the correct oval for the question you are answering. It is sometimes possible to get your answers out of sequence.

The VST Answer Sheet on pages 18 and 19 of this booklet should be used to record your answer to the sample questions. It is similar to the one you will encounter in the real test. Attempt all questions before checking your answers at the back of this booklet.
An example of a VST answer sheet.
### MECHANICAL REASONING

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### INTERPERSONAL UNDERSTANDINGS

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Questions 1 – 6

A survey was carried out on all vehicles (cars, trucks, buses, etc.) passing through a major intersection during a 24-hour period. A record was made of how many vehicles went straight through the intersection, turned right or turned left. The results are shown in Figure 1.

The arrows indicate the directions the vehicles followed through the intersection; the numbers next to the arrows indicate how many vehicles went in each direction. For example, 100 vehicles turned left from Cravens Road into Bulls Road. Some turns (such as right from Bulls Road into Cravens Road) are not shown because they are not allowed.

The numbers represented by P, Q and R have not been given.
1. The traffic travelling along Axford Road away from the intersection was made up of vehicles from
   A. Bulls Road, Cravens Road and North Road.
   B. North Road and Cravens Road only.
   C. Bulls Road and Cravens Road only.
   D. North Road and Bulls Road only.

2. The total number of vehicles travelling along North Road away from the intersection (Q) was
   A. 10 300.
   B. 10 400.
   C. 41 300.
   D. 41 400.

3. The total number of vehicles that entered the intersection from Axford Road and turned right into Bulls Road was
   A. 600.
   B. 700.
   C. 800.
   D. 900.

4. During the 24 hours of the survey, the two most heavily used roads were
   A. Axford Road and Cravens Road.
   B. Cravens Road and Bulls Road.
   C. North Road and Cravens Road.
   D. North Road and Axford Road.

5. Along which one of the following pairs of roads can traffic pass through the intersection in all the arrowed directions at the same time without their paths crossing?
   A. Cravens Road and Axford Road
   B. North Road and Cravens Road
   C. Bulls Road and North Road
   D. Bulls Road and Cravens Road

6. The total number of vehicles entering the intersection from Bulls Road was
   A. 12 000.
   B. 18 700.
   C. 40 100.
   D. 50 200.
UNIT 2

Questions 7 – 11

In order to produce clothes that fit, clothing manufacturers need to know the typical heights of people of given ages. Figure 1 shows the average height of Australian males and females from birth to 20 years of age.

![Graph showing average height of Australian males and females from birth to 20 years of age.](image)

In this unit ‘average’ refers to ‘mean’.

7 Figure 1 indicates that the main reason that 20-year-old men are (on average) 15 cm taller than 20-year-old women is that

A female babies are that much shorter than male babies at birth.
B females grow at a slower rate than males for the first two years.
C males grow at a faster rate than females from age two to age seven.
D males grow for a longer period of time than females.
8 According to Figure 1, which one of the following is the best estimate of the average increase in height of boys between their first birthday and their fifth birthday?

- A 35 cm
- B 55 cm
- C 75 cm
- D 110 cm

9 For the 20 years covered by Figure 1, which one of the following is the best estimate of the increase in height of average females and males respectively?

- A 105 cm and 115 cm
- B 105 cm and 125 cm
- C 115 cm and 125 cm
- D 115 cm and 135 cm

10 Compare males and females of the same age during the first 20 years of their lives.

Figure 1 indicates that (on average) females are

- A always shorter than males.
- B taller than males for 3 years.
- C taller than males for 5 years.
- D taller than males for 13 years.

11 According to Figure 1, which one of the following is the best estimate of the rate of growth of an average girl during her fourth year of life?

- A 0.3 cm per month
- B 0.6 cm per month
- C 0.9 cm per month
- D 1.2 cm per month
Questions 12 – 15
The following letter appeared in a newspaper:

I have watched in recent times as awareness of greenhouse gas issues has grown in the community with some concern that this may lead to people buying smaller cars than they might otherwise have done, since small cars produce less greenhouse gas than large ones.

The accompanying graph identifies data, now a decade old, of the only known Australian investigation into the effect of the size of vehicles on accident trauma. The data was produced by the Accident Research Unit at the University of Adelaide.

The graph clearly shows that in the worst-case accident, there is twice the probability of needing prolonged medical treatment for the small car occupant compared with the large car occupant.

![Figure 1](image)

I would be grateful if you would draw this chart to the attention of your readers with some of the vigour with which the marketers of small cars are showing their growth in vehicle sales.
12 Assuming that there were equal numbers of small, medium and large cars on the road, what would be the probability that an occupant of any car involved in a road accident would need to stay in hospital for more than 24 hours?

A  5%
B  9%
C  27%
D  50%

13 The ‘worst-case accident’ (line 8) in the context of the letter is an accident in which an occupant of a car

A is killed.
B needs medical treatment.
C needs hospital treatment for any length of time.
D needs to stay in hospital for more than 24 hours.

14 About which one of the following issues does the letter express greatest concern?

A responsible marketing
B informed consumer choice
C the emission of greenhouse gases
D public spending on medical treatment

15 Which one of the following pieces of information would most seriously undermine the main argument of the letter?

A In recent years, the design of small cars has been improved, to make them safer.
B Legislation has been introduced to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from large cars.
C The marketers of small cars are also, by and large, in the business of marketing large cars.
D More passengers of small cars than drivers of small cars need prolonged medical treatment.
Questions 16 – 18

A student wants to produce copies of rectangles of different sizes for a project. In order to do this, a photocopier with an ENLARGE / REDUCE control is to be used. If the ENLARGE / REDUCE control of the photocopier is set to 200%, each side of the resulting rectangle will be twice as long as in the original. If the ENLARGE / REDUCE control of the photocopier is set to 300%, each side of the resulting rectangle will be three times as long as in the original.

Suppose the original rectangle is 8 cm × 12 cm (i.e. area is 8 cm × 12 cm = 96 square centimetres).

16 In order to produce a rectangle of area 2400 square centimetres, the ENLARGE / REDUCE control of the photocopier should be set to

A 400%.
B 450%.
C 500%.
D 550%.
E 600%.

17 In order to produce a rectangle 2 cm × 3 cm the ENLARGE / REDUCE control of the photocopier should be set to

A 5%.
B 10%.
C 15%.
D 20%.
E 25%.

18 Suppose that a picture 8 cm wide and 6 cm high is copied once (I), rotated by 90 degrees and copied again (II) to produce a final copy.

Which one of the following would produce a final copy that is 20 cm wide and 12 cm high?

A (I) ENLARGE / REDUCE control to 125%
   (II) ENLARGE / REDUCE control to 150%
B (I) ENLARGE / REDUCE control to 125%
   (II) ENLARGE / REDUCE control to 250%
C (I) ENLARGE / REDUCE control to 150%
   (II) ENLARGE / REDUCE control to 150%
D (I) ENLARGE / REDUCE control to 150%
   (II) ENLARGE / REDUCE control to 250%
E None of the above would achieve this.
UNIT 5

The figure indicates the personal priorities of graduating students over a three-year perspective and a ten-year perspective, according to an international survey.

![Personal priorities chart]

**Figure 1**

19. Which one of the following had the greatest increase in priority when perspective changed from three to ten years?

- A. personal development and growth
- B. pursuing further education
- C. career development
- D. starting a business
- E. travel
UNIT 6

Questions 20 – 23

Figure 1 shows two taps and an outlet that directs water into a bath. The hot water tap is labelled H and the cold water tap is labelled C. Each tap controls the flow of water through a pipe that leads to the outlet. All the water entering the outlet goes into the bath.

Suppose that hot water enters the outlet at the rate of 20 L/min and cold water enters the outlet at the rate of 40 L/min.

How much water enters the bath each 15 seconds?

A 5 L
B 10 L
C 15 L
D 20 L

Figure 1
Question 21 refers to the following additional information:

Inside the outlet hot water mixes with cold water. The temperature of the water that leaves the outlet depends on the temperatures of the hot water and cold water that enter it.

Let
- \( T_H \) be the temperature (in °C) of the hot water that enters the outlet from tap H;
- \( T_C \) be the temperature (in °C) of the cold water that enters the outlet from tap C;
- \( T_L \) be the temperature (in °C) of the water that leaves the outlet.

When the rates at which hot and cold water enter the outlet are equal, it may be assumed that

\[
T_L = \frac{T_H + T_C}{2}.
\]

21 Hot water at a temperature of 60 °C and cold water at a temperature of 12 °C enter the outlet at the same rate.

The temperature at which water leaves the outlet is

- A 26 °C.
- B 36 °C.
- C 44 °C.
- D 48 °C.

Questions 22 and 23 refer to the following additional information:

When the rate at which hot water enters the outlet is double the rate at which cold water enters the outlet, it may be assumed that:

\[
T_L = \frac{2T_H + T_C}{3}.
\]

22 Hot water enters the outlet at twice the rate of the cold water.

The temperature of the hot water is 80 °C and the temperature of the water that leaves the outlet is 60 °C.

What is the temperature of the cold water?

- A 20 °C.
- B 30 °C.
- C 40 °C.
- D 50 °C.

23 Hot water enters the outlet at twice the rate of the cold water.

If \( \frac{T_H}{T_C} = 4 \), then \( \frac{T_L}{T_C} = \)

- B 2.
- C 3.
- D 4.
SECTION 1: Next in Sequence

Questions 24 – 27

In each of the following items, there are four shapes forming a sequence going from left to right. You are to choose from the alternatives at the right (A, B, C and D), the one which would most logically come next in the sequence.

Example

In the sequence above, the dot rotates anticlockwise, and the cross alternates between two positions, so D is the answer.

Alternatively, the whole pattern can be seen rotating 45° anticlockwise, again giving D.

24
SECTION 2: Complete the Pattern

Questions 28 – 31

In each of the following items there is a framework of squares, triangles or other shapes. Symbols are distributed around the framework according to a pattern or a developing rule. For example, sometimes the pattern is symmetrical; sometimes a rule develops along a pathway through the pattern; sometimes gradations cross the pattern.

Part of the pattern, marked with a ? , is missing. You are to choose from the alternatives A, B, C or D, to the right of the pattern, the one that best fits in this position.

Example

Reading left to right across each row, and from top row to bottom row, arrows alternate with ovals, so the missing shape should be an oval. The ovals are shaded in a way which progresses around the pattern, so the top half of the oval should be shaded.

So D is the answer.
SECTION 3: Middle of Sequence

Questions 32 – 35
In each of the following items, five objects or patterns can be rearranged to form a logical sequence. You are then to select the alternative (A, B, C, D or E) that is the middle object in the sequence.

Example

In the sequence above, the arrangement will be E, B, D, A, C (or C, A, D, B, E). So D is the answer.

32

33

34

35
This is a test of the ability to understand basic mechanical ideas and to apply them. For each question, you need to analyse the information provided and choose the best answer from the four options (A, B, C or D).

This test uses some conventions and assumptions.

1 **Pivots** are pins or axles around which a lever, wheel or gear can turn. A fixed pivot does not itself move in space (relative to the main body of the device). It is indicated by a black dot. A non-fixed pivot can move in space. It is indicated by a small white circle. The figure illustrates the two kinds of pivot. In the figure, the lever turns on the fixed pivot while the hook moves with and turns on the non-fixed pivot.

![Diagram showing fixed and non-fixed pivots](image)

2 The following diagrams illustrate: **left** and **right**, **clockwise** and **anticlockwise**, and **horizontal** and **vertical** motion. These refer to the view provided in diagrams.

![Diagram showing left, right, clockwise, and anticlockwise motions](image)

3 In the questions, it is assumed that there is **no slipping** between belts, ropes, wheels, gears etc.
Example

When the handle is moved as shown by the arrow, end E will

A  move anticlockwise (initially left).
B  move clockwise (initially right).
C  not move because a fixed pivot is used.
D  not move because a non-fixed pivot is used.

The answer is A.
UNIT 1

Question 36

The bottle opener in the figure is shown partly cut open. The handle is turned to drive the corkscrew into the cork of the bottle which would be placed below.

36 If the arms of the opener were moved upwards from the position shown, sections

A X and Y would both turn clockwise.
B X and Y would both turn anticlockwise.
C X would turn clockwise and Y would turn anticlockwise.
D X would turn anticlockwise and Y would turn clockwise.

UNIT 2

Question 37

The figure shows a series of interacting see-saws. White arrows indicate possible forces (X and Z are pushes, W and Y are pulls).

37 Which of these forces will cause the end of the seesaw to move in the direction indicated by the dotted arrow?

A none of them
B X and Y only
C W, X and Y only
D all of them
UNIT 3

Question 38

The pawl attached to fixed shaft P can move between positions I and II around pivot Q and engage teeth on the gear wheel.

38 For this device, the gear wheel
   A can turn anticlockwise only when the pawl is in position I.
   B can turn anticlockwise only when the pawl is in position II.
   C can turn clockwise or anticlockwise when the pawl is in either position I or II.
   D cannot turn clockwise or anticlockwise with the pawl in either position I or II.

UNIT 4

Questions 39 and 40

A heavy spotlight can be moved into four different positions along a strong rod (I, II, III and IV). The spotlight weighs much more than the rod. The rod is attached to a fixed vertical pole by a rope and a pivot.

39 Which one of the following positions of the spotlight will put the greatest tension on the rope?
   A II only
   B III only
   C IV only
   D II, III and IV equally

40 Which position(s) of the spotlight will make the rope tight and keep the rod horizontal?
   A I, II, III and IV
   B II, III and IV only
   C III only
   D III or IV only
UNIT 5

Question 41

41  Which one of the following requires the least force (white arrow) to lift the front of the car off the ground?

A  

![](image1)

B  

![](image2)

C  

![](image3)

D  

![](image4)

UNIT 6

Question 42

This belt and wheel system (drawn to scale) is driven by wheel X, which rotates clockwise.

![](image5)

42  How many other wheels rotate at the same speed as X (revolutions per minute)?

A  one  
B  two  
C  three  
D  four
UNIT 7

Questions 43 – 45

The figure shows a tree pruning cutter on the end of an adjustable length aluminium pole.

43 In order that the cutting jaws close, it is necessary to
   A reduce the tension on the rope to decrease the tension in the spring.
   B reduce the tension on the rope so the top cutting jaw moves down.
   C pull the rope to decrease the tension in the spring.
   D pull the rope so that Pulley 1 moves down.

44 When the rope is pulled which one of the following is true?
   A The lower cutting jaw moves upward.
   B The upper cutting jaw moves downward.
   C The spring pulls the cutting jaws together.
   D The distance between Pulley 1 and Pulley 2 increases.

45 The purpose of the spring is to
   A increase the force applied by the cutting jaws.
   B return the cutting jaws to the closed position when the rope is released.
   C return the cutting jaws to the open position when the rope is released.
   D add tension to the rope to give the user greater feel for the cutting effect.
**Answers**

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B. ACER using and disclosing the personal information and other information it collects about You for purposes connected with Your MFB VOCATIONAL SELECTION TEST (VST) registration and testing which may include investigating any suspected misconduct and determining and administering any consequences for misconduct. You understand that if You do not provide us with all the information requested, ACER may not be able to process Your MFB VOCATIONAL SELECTION TEST (VST) registration or test or respond to Your communications;

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